

## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Report

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13th June, 1955.

U.S.S.R.

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Information on the city of SARATOV.

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LOCATION

4. SARATOV lies in a hollow on the right bank of the Volga and is surrounded on the other 3 sides by hills of about 200 metres in height. The Volga bank varies in height; its highest point is probably not more than 50 metres, while much of it is between 20 and 40 metres. In some places it drops sharply down to the river, such as at the end of Prospekt imeni Kirova. At others it falls gradually, such as at the end of Ulitsa Lenina.

5. There is a sand and shingle beach along the Volga between the ends of Prospekt imeni Kirova and Ulitsa Lenina, where swimming and sunbathing are possible. There are several low, sandy islands in the Volga opposite SARATOV, most of them being overgrown with weeds and rushes. On some there are kitchen-gardens and swimming beaches.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

6. There are motor-buses, trolley-buses and trams in SARATOV. By far the most extensive network of routes is worked by the trams. 25X1  
Trolley-buses first appeared in 1953, and are intended to replace the existing motor-buses.

(a) Trams

Route No.1 - Starts from the main railway station, follows Tsyganskaya Ulitsa as far as

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the Volga, returns up Tsyganskaya Ulitsa and has its terminus at the ZAVOD KOMBAYNOV factory on the south-western outskirts of the city

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Route No.2 - From the a/m ZAVOD KOMBAYNOV to an area to the north of it commonly known as KREKINA

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Route No.6 - Starts from the main railway station, follows Tsyganskaya Ulitsa, Astrakhanskaya Ulitsa, MikhaYlovskaya Ulitsa, Prospekt im. Kirova and has its terminus close to the Volga (near location No. 63 on the town-plan).

Route No.13 - Starts at the corner of Ulitsa Lenina and Ulitsa Gor'kogo, follows the latter street as far as Ulitsa Gornaya into which it turns.

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Route No.14 - Starts at the main railway station and follows Tsyganskaya Ulitsa to its end near the Volga, which is the terminus of the route.

(b) Trolley-buses. The first route (No.1) was introduced in 1953, the second one (No.2) about a year later. Both start at the main railway station. Route No.1 goes straight down Ulitsa Lenina to near the Volga, terminating at the Railway Offices (location No.1 on the town-plan). Route No.2 follows Ulitsa 20 Let Vlskm, turns into Ulitsa MikhaYlovskaya via a small side-street and then into Prospekt im. Kirova, which it follows until it terminates close to the Volga.

(c) Motor-buses. In the spring of 1954 motor-buses were still operating - on the same 2 routes as the trolley-buses. Informant thinks they may now have been withdrawn.

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#### STREET SURFACES

7. Streets are asphalted only in the centre of SARATOV

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Ulitsa Lenina, Prospekt im. Kirova, Ulitsa Sovetskaya, Ulitsa Radishcheva, Ulitsa Vol'skaya, Ulitsa Gor'kogo, Chapayevskaya Ulitsa, Ulitsa Sakko-Vantseti.

Many of the streets in the centre are not asphalted, however; they are cobbled. As soon as one leaves the central area of the city the streets deteriorate rapidly into dirt, gravel and mud surfaces.

8. All the main streets of SARATOV, and most of the side-streets, are wide enough for two lanes of traffic. Ulitsa Rakhova is a very wide street with gardens in the centre; on each side of the gardens there is one-way traffic only. Ulitsa Astrakhanskaya is also wide; along its side nearest to the Volga there is also a line of gardens.

9. The main shopping streets are Prospekt im. Kirova, Ulitsa Radishcheva, Ulitsa Gor'kogo and Ulitsa Lenina.

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SQUARES

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10. [ ] the following three main, large squares in the city:

- (i) Ploshchad' Revolyutsii, between Ulitsa Gor'kogo and Ulitsa Radishcheva where they are crossed by Ulitsa Lenina (near location No.34 on the town-plan). This was created in 1948 or 1949 by wholesale demolition of buildings in the area. It is used for parades and demonstrations.
- (ii) Privokzal'naya Ploshchad', a square opposite the main railway station. In the centre of it is a monument to Dzerzhinskiy (Pamyatnik DZERZHINSKOGO).
- (iii) Ploshchad' imeni Chernyshevskogo, adjoining the Park imeni Gor'kogo (Location No.15 on the town-plan).

RIVER TRAFFIC

11. There is a daily passenger steamer service except in winter between SARATOV and USOVKA on the Volga (about 45 km. N. E. of SARATOV). Large, long-distance passenger steamers, such as those plying between GOR'KIY and ASTRAKHAN also call at SARATOV, where they go alongside the Central Pier (Tsentral'naya Pristan).

PUBLIC SERVICES

- 12.(i) Electricity. Most houses are supplied with electric power and all streets are lit by electric light. The best lit street is Ulitsa Lenina.
- (ii) Gas. Many houses have gas for cooking purposes. It is supplied by pipe-line from YEL'SHANKA (about 4 km North of SARATOV), where there are large reserves of natural gas underground. (Gas is also sent from YEL'SHANKA to MOSCOW). There is a gas distributing station in SARATOV in the area between the end of Ulitsa Gor'naya and the Volga.
- (iii) Water. All houses in the central parts of SARATOV have piped water. Away from the centre water has often to be obtained from street pumps.

THE MVD TRAINING SCHOOL (Location No. 12 on the Town-Plan).

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13. [ ] a large Party meeting attended by representatives of various military units in SARATOV was held there. It also contains a club, which is sometimes open to the general public for dancing.

14. The school occupies a whole block between Tsyganskaya Ulitsa, Ulitsa Lenina, Astrakhanskaya Ulitsa and another street [ ]. The main entrance is through a large courtyard opening on to Ulitsa Lenina. The whole area is surrounded by a wooden fence about 2½ metres high, except on Ulitsa Lenina where it is lower and less compact. Most of the school is housed in one large, three-storeyed stone building.

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15. [redacted] the school was up to 1948 or 25X1  
 1949 run by the Frontier Troops (Pogranichniki) Section of the  
 MVD or MGB. Up to that time the students there had green piping 25X1  
 on their uniforms and green cap-bands. After 1948/49 [redacted]  
 [redacted] the students had light-blue piping and light-blue 25X1  
 cap-bands. [redacted] all kinds of MVD officers (not only  
 Frontier Troops) are trained there. [redacted] one of  
 the largest and most important MVD schools in the U.S.S.R. 25X1

16. [redacted] the types of student 25X1  
 at the school [redacted] a  
 cadet (Kursant) at the school for about 3 years (after the Second  
 World War). He was then sent to a Special Section (Osobyi Otdel)  
 in Germany for one year. On account of heavy drinking he was sent  
 back to the U.S.S.R., and later to a MVD Frontier Troops unit  
 stationed in one of the Baltic Republics.

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Appendix "B"

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KEY TO TOWN-PLAN OF SARATOV.

- No. 1      Railway Offices (Upravleniye Zheleznoy Dorogi)
- No. 2      SARATOV Goods Station
- No. 3      Locomotive Depot
- No. 4      Tractor Factory, known as "Traktordetal"
- No. 5      General Post Office (Pochtamt)
- No. 6      1st Division Militia Station (Pervoye Otdeleniye Militsii)
- No. 7      Main Fire Station
- No. 8      Komendatura
- No. 9      Soviet Officers' Hostel (formerly known as "Dom Letchikov"), where mainly Air Force officers are quartered, abbreviated to "DOS" (Dom Ofitser'skogo Sostava)
- No.10      SARATOV Gaol
- No.11      Machine-building Factory (Stankostroitel'nyy Zavod)
- No.12      MVD Training School, imeni Dzerzhinskogo
- No.13      Agricultural College (Sel'skokhozyaystvennyy Tekhnikum)
- No.14      General Stores (Univermag) and closed-in market
- No.15      Park, imeni Gor'kogo, and Dinamo Stadium
- No.16      Soviet Officers' Hostel ("DOS")
- No.17      Economics Institute (Ekonomicheskiy Institut)
- No.18      Mechanics Institute (Mekhanicheskiy Institut)
- No.19      Soviet Officers' Hostel ("DOS"), where mainly officers from the 10th Independent Rifle Brigade (Desyataya Otdel'naya Strelkovaya Brigada) are billeted. Exact address is: Astrakhanskaya Ulitsa, 81.
- No.20      Soviet Officers' Hostel ("DOS"). Exact address is: ulitsa Lenina, 161
- No.21      Hosiery Factory (Trikotazhnyy Zavod)
- No.22      Main Railway Station
- No.23      Infantry Training School (Saratovskoye Pekhotnoye Uchilishche)
- No.24      Gorsovet and Oblsovet
- No.25      State Bank (Gosbank)
- No.26      MVD (formerly MGB) Headquarters (Upravleniye MVD)

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- No.27 Military Hospital (360-yŷ ordena Krasnoŷ Zvezdy Voennyŷ Gospital')
- No.28 MOSCOW Hotel (Gostinitsa Moskovskaya)
- No.29 Military Hotel, known as "KECH" - for visiting officers on duty
- No.30 Medical Faculty of University (Meditsinskiŷ Universitet)
- No.31 Tramways Offices (Upravleniye Tramvaya)
- No.32 Gardens and KIROV Monument
- No.33 UDARNIK Cinema
- No.34 Market (Verkhniŷ Bazar)
- No.35 SUVOROV Military School (Suvorovskoye Uchilishche)
- No.36 Spinning Mill (Pryadil'naya Fabrika)
- No.37 Editorial Offices of local Party newspapers "Komunist" and "Stalinets"
- No.38 Central Library
- No.39 Opera House (Gosudarstvennyŷ Opernyŷ Teatr imeni Chernyshevskogo)
- No.40 RADISHCHEV Museum (Museŷ Radishcheva)
- No.41 Barracks of the 10th Independent Rifle Brigade
- No.42 Tram Depot
- No.43 "ROSSIYA" Restaurant (at the corner of Ulitsa Gor'kogo and Prospekt im. Kirova)
- No.44 "MOSKVA" Restaurant
- No.45 "VOLGA" Restaurant
- No.46 "TRIUMF" Restaurant
- No.47 "TSENTRAL'NYŷ" Cinema
- No.48 "PION'ER" Cinema
- No.49 "LETNIŷ" Cinema (open only in summer)
- No.50 Circus
- No.51 "KARL MARX" Dramatic Theatre (Gosudarstvennyŷ Dramaticheskii Teatr imeni Karla Marksa)
- No.52 Young People's Theatre (Teatr yunogo Zritelya)
- No.53 Obkompartii and Obkom Komsomola (Oblast Party and Oblast Komsomol Headquarters)

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- No.54 Barracks of Signals Battalion (Batal'on Svyazi) of the 123 Corps
- No.55 Soviet Officers' Hostel ("DOS")
- No.56 Soviet Officers' Hostel ("DOS")
- No.57 Military Storage Depot (Voenny<sup>y</sup> Sklad)
- No.58 Municipal Baths (Gorodskaya Banya)
- No.59 Training School for Airforce Radio Operators (Uchilishche po Podgotovke Aviatsonnykh Strelkov-Radistov)
- No.60 ORs' Canteen (Soldatskaya Stolovaya) of the 10th Independent Rifle Brigade
- No.61 Soviet Officers' Hostel ("DOS")
- No.62 Civil Airport Administration (Upravleni<sup>e</sup> Aeroporta)
- No.63 HQ of 123 Corps of the Soviet Army
- No.64 Tobacco Factory
- No.65 Technical College for the Fuel Industry (Neftyano<sup>y</sup> Tekhnikum)
- No.66 Bakery (nicknamed "Struzhki")

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